THE TIME-LOCK Preparing the Answer

A NEW YORK CITY MYSTERY-ROMANCE

By CHARLES E. WALK

BUNDPAIS OF PRECIDING CHAPTERS.

Builopp Van Vechten and Tom Phinney, from a window of the Powinstan Cinh, see four men and a gri cuter No. 1313, a newly leased house across the street. Later they see one of the men danger of the cuter of the country of the men danger of the cuter of the cu NOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

with your house of mystery."

the slip of paper. Tom abruptly ex-claimed: "How the dickens do you That marriage had not been a happy

uneventful history of a friend-for that very reason I am rather hasy as to details. In other words, there never has been any reason why one should want to plumb her past. She is almost a member of our family, and has been for so long a time that whatever affects her also touches us."

whatever affects her also touches us."

"Precisely," said Mr. Flint, so briskly that his augmented interest caught Van Vechten's attention.

"Well?" the latter encouraged.

"It is in the close relationship among the different families concerned that I hope to find the key to the puzzle, And there again I look for your help.

"Consider, Mr. Van Vechten: it's a far cry from the murder of an ob-

being offered in London for information of Miss Carew. That would account for their sudden interest."

By way of answer the young man handed him the cablegram from Fotheringill. Mr. Flint glanced at it, then he sat up with a jerk and his eyes narrowed to mere slits. He pondered the text for some time while two young men watched him in slient curlosity.

"Well," he breathed at last, returning the message, "here is one more link in the chain—not a very definite one, but an additional small detail that associates Miss Carew directly with your house of mystery."

With your house of mystery."

"If you are correct, then it is her old have been exciting the club's curiosity for lo, these many moons!—

If you are correct, then it is her old have been any moons!—

If you are correct, then it is her old

With your house of mystery."

If you are correct, then it is her old

Van Vechten stared in wonder at home—her birthplace—the house from
the slip of paper. Tom abruptly exwell."

"By George!" ejaculated he, vehemently but not loudly. "That's it! The very thing that's been chasing round in my skull!" He proceeded more calmly:

was accepted by Mr. Flint is hard to arrive at the frush at this one cishing:

"Rut. Plint, admitting that one of the two ladies mentioned here is my cousin"—tapping the cablegram—the fact that you found here purse in a house which happens to belong to Tempis Bonner, and that also she has been mysteriously sojourning near his home in England, presents only a considence—curious, perhaps, but immaterial."

"Maybe so; but do not lose sight of the other lady—her companion. The other lady—her companion. The other lady—her companion. The was a Houyler, I believe."

"Do you know that before No. 1313 cams into Mr. Bonner's possession it belonged to Compton Schuyler, Mrs. Devercaux's father?"

The expression that now fitted across Van Vachten's face was one of bewilderment. He had no comment to make.

"Furthermore," continued Mr. Plint, 'instead of the present owner wing ignorant that such a shabby parcel of property is a part of the earlier, it is purchase was prompted by a sentiment growing out of a row mance more than their years old. See, you see, the coincidence begins to manyer more than their years old. See, you see, the coincidence begins to manyer more than their first and the study is the sevents and that is had to arrive at the fund at the seit which indicate that what I am telling you is what actually happened. It is hard to arrive at the study that be easily supprised if the young man had identified the lady of the taxi-cab with some other entirely 'I'; would appear from the sequel that it is hard to arrive at the said with indicate that what I am telling you is what actually happened. It is hard to arrive at the said which indicate that what I am telling you is what actually happened. It is hard to arrive at the set with the several lady of the taxi-cab with some other entirely 'I'; would appear from the sequel that taxi-cab with some other entirely 'I'; would appear from the sequel that the substance in the lady of the taxi-cab with substance in the sequel that the substance in the sequel that the substan

was asserted by Mr. Plant in the loady. "That's it more for the proceeding from the loady and the loady and the loady are in the loady are in

and the control of the course of the set of

The marries had not been a heapy of promising was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that was a quality in the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of the hurries, and instant attitude that the detection of th

ing—"an ideally desirable location for a home—regular old fashioned English country home, you know—gables, chimney pots, ivy, deer park, hedges admitted at last. "It was the difference in years that fooled me. Until I realized my mistake I believed the "Confound you, Flint! Out with it!" ence in years that fooled me. Until I realized my mistake I believed the "Confound you, Flint! Out with it!" ence in years that fooled me. Until I realized my mistake I believed the 'welled lady to be Josephine Devergence out from what actually happened he withdrew temporarily from the field and gave Max Willard every opportunity to advance his suit. I suppose the idea was that if Willard was not consequences; if not, then Willard was not consequences; if not, then Willard was to stand aside and give Bonner his consequences; if not, then Willard was consequences; if not, then Willard was to stand aside and give Bonner his quite as a matter of course; late day; but certain circumstances

"Are you going to use the motor

for a while, Ruddy? I want to take together. Van Vechten paused at a a run down to Maiden Lane if you're realization that the two were quarreinet."

The other roused sufficiently from quivering with intense indignation.

front stairway to the upper hall. Voice—there's n body to hear you."

The voices counded incessantly, "John!" The girl was now genuine, first a man's, hourse and rumbling, ly slarmed. "Don't talk so wildly! then the girl's, then sometimes both You'll regret this. And don't—don't together. Van Vechten paused at a look at me like that!" Another brief

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Tom Finds Employment.

have you nobody cles shall. Scream, if you want to yell at the top of your your your your conterers a mondy to hear, you."

"John!" The girl was now gottuined your your your your hand the man shall be dead your your your hand the week you have called your hand your hand you have called your hand your hand your hand you have called your hand you have called your hand. "You're not in earnest." Brownlow was increased, you hand the wortheleas maining an interested scruting your hand you mean to do?"

"I shant"—doggedly.

"I shant"—doggedly.

"I shant"—doggedly.

"I shant"—doggedly.

"I shant"—doggedly.

"The offit must have rushed toward the door, deeparately striving to get pest him, and just as certainly has been to it."

The offit must have rushed toward the sest him, and just as certainly has been to fill you doubt my qualifications.

"I was the hand of your hand the weight hand to steps. What followed was pretty much confused in Van Vechters' mind There was a sound of scuffling," the incensed listener in the hall heard the property of the price of your are buring me?" which incensed listener in the hall heard the property of the price of your are buring me?" which was immediately followed by a stimed the property of the prope

the food that it's not to be,"

The feeful that it's not to be,"
which he heavily. "When you hear the conditions you will have out like all the rest of 'em. Beens like these days havigators are too base stiggeted by a little thing like double wages."

The proched up has eare Two pestimes had been mentioned which he at deach beyon had enjoyed. He interrupted with an exchanation.

"Double wages straight I dun't care to be reputed a straight I dun't care to be reputed a straight I dun't care to be reputed as a straight I dun't care to be

whething to do with it—his unflinching herve, the mistery of his lock, the beystable dominance of caste and breeding. With a little bow Van Vechten turned again to the girl.

You are at perfect liberty to depart," he said, with calm, dignified deforence. "And, really, I think you have the said and the said of the sai

Cove adventure, Van Vechten desolate and God-forsaken in which to carry on a conversation?

Iten was unable to determine, either from the detective's fixed expression (or absence of expression) or the few questions he asked when Tom had finished.

Tom, after the detective had gone, reverted to a topic which he had from stairway to the upper hall.

Toward of the voices was a woman's to carry on a conversation?

One of the voices was a woman's nake despression of the voices was a woman's nake string. The voices was a woman's nake string of speech.

One of the voices was a woman's nake described in as soon as he could wedge in a word in a reckless frenzy of speech.

You think I care what happens to me, do you? Huh! Blame little you ing himself for the opening. When the wow about John Callis. If I can't at last Brownlow comprehended, he have you I don't care a whoop in the word at the rear of board, but I'll take what becomes of me. If I can't at Tom in silent surprise; but in a line the detective had gone.

Tom, after the detective had gone, reverted to a topic which he had from stairway to the upper hall.

The voices was a woman's to was the could wedge in a word in a reckless frenzy of speech.

You think I care what happens to me, do you? Huh! Blame little you ing himself for the opening. When the word in a last Brownlow comprehended, he have you I don't care a whoop in the caller at Tom in silent surprise; but in a list time of the Claremont land the result of the Claremont land the word in a least Brownlow comprehended, he have you nobody else shall: Scream, moment he detective had gone.

Tom, after the detective had gone, with infinite caution he crept up the finishing touch to his caller's travel on the voices was a woman's to the provider of the care of the base of the late of the care of the base of the late of the care of the late of the care of the base of the late of the care of the la

(To Be Continued)

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